S 316 worked at Kitai (Ku-cheng), Sui-lai, Kucha and Aksu. Table IV shows the general distribution of coal reserves and their production.

c. Reported Fissionable Materials

It has been reported that fissionable materials such as uranium and thorium are produced in Sinkiang province. S [648] It is even rumored that the province is being built up into an atomic arsenal for Soviet Russia and Communist China, although no definite information is available. Perhaps this is an exaggeration, for present means of communication and transportation are below the minimum that would be required for running the complicated machinery necessary for atomic plants. Nevertheless it is pointed out that "...in the city of Arason (A-shan), Ili county, an abundant amount of wolfram and uranium is mined. In Conca (Ku-ch'eng), Urumchi country, uranium is mined. It is reported that in a concealed mine at Ulugcat city on the Russian border of Kasgar (Kashgar), thousands of persons were occupied with mining. Copper, gold, and oil were obtained from the Ulugchat area, and the concealed mining activities show that there are also mined some strategic minerals. (Bughra, Mehmet Emin: Doghu Turkestan, pp. 84-85).

N • 377 d. Hydroelectric Power:

Except for the thermoelectric plants of Sian, Lanchow, and Urumchi, no hydroelectric power is known to be in existence in the four provinces of Northwest China. It was reported the S [377] Urumchi power plant can produce forty percent more electricity than the sum total produced in Sinkiang province prior to the recommission of the plant in December, 1953. While this, on the one hand, indicates the inensified production of electricity production in the provincial capitals, like Urumchi, it shows on the other the limited development of electric power plants S [377] in the region of the whole Northwest. A power generator was recently installed in Urumchi, and another at Ulapo in the province of Sinkiang. (KM Sept. 15, 1955). However, a gigantic scheme of water power development is planned along the mid-Yellow River course.

N 377 653 According to Li Jui, a member of the Yellow River planning commission, a plan to tame and exploit the Yellow River, by building forty-six dams from the Lung-yang gorge above Kuei-teh in eastern Chinghai and San-men (in west Honan) gorge below Tung-kuan of eastern Shensi for hydroelectric development and irrigation, was passed by the National People's Congress on July 30, 1955. (Li Jui: China's Sorrow will be no more - the Taming and Exploiting of the Yellow River, People's China, August 6, 1955, pp. 9-15). The actual work of the plan to harness the Yellow River was started in 1954. The plans call for two large hydro-power stations to be built, one at Liu-chia

and the other at San-men which will give an annual output of 110,000 million kilowatts of electricity, ten times the nation's total output of power in 1954.

In San-men gorge, where the river is narrow and its bed solid igneous rock, a dam and reservoirs will be built. The dam will be some 295 feet high and detain in its huge reservoir water to a level of 1,150 feet above sea level. The reservoir will be able to hold back some 47,086,344,000 cubic yards (7,923,600 million imperial gallons) of water. At San-men gorge, a great million kilowatt power station is to be built with an average output of 4,600 million kilowatt hours, equivalent to sixty-four percent of the country's total output of electricity in 1952. A big electricity supply network in central China as well as over the vast rich basins of Wei-ho and Fen-ho rivers in Shensi and Shansi respectively will be built around the San-men gorge; over 2,623,400 acres more land will be irrigated before 1967, for the water levels and the huge waterhead above the dam - the water above it may be close to 230 feet higher than it is below.

At Liu-chia, above Lanchow, another million kilowatt hydro-electric power station will be built with an annual output of 5,230 million kilowatts. It will not only supply ample and cheap electric power to the new industrial enterprises in and around Lanchou and Hsi-ning, but also would free the city of Lanchow from the menace of inundations caused by the overflowing of the river during a flood. In addition, large tracts of land in Kansu as well as Inner Mongolia will be brought under irrigation. Navigation between Lanchou or even Hsi-ning along the Huang -shui, a tributary of the Yellow River, and Paotou in Suiyuan will also be improved.

The two great power stations will mark the completion of the first phase of the plan in the fifteen years ending 1967. Thus the completion of these multiple-purpose plans for flood control, power generation and irrigation works to be built along the mid-course of the Yellow River will bring a new phase in the industrial and agricultural development of the region.

2. Iron Ore and Ferro-alloys

Northwest China has a fair amount of iron ore deposits and some ferro-alloy minerals, such as tungsten, molybdenum and nickel.

a. Iron Ore:

Iron ore deposits are found in all the four provinces of Northwest China. In Shensi province, iron ore is widely spread in the Chin-ling and Pa-shan Mountain ranges - extending west to Kansu, east to Honan, and south to Szechwan provinces. It is relatively more concentrated in the districts of Feng-hsien

*668 *175 316 5. The excavation of a new coal shaft near Sian started on August 24, 1955, and is expected to be completed in 1958. It will become part of the Tungchwan coal mines.

*668 *175 315 2. Kansu.

The most important industrial project in Kansu is perhaps the Yümen Oil Field. Since the Communists took over, extensive reconstruction work has been carried out in this major oil center of China with the help of experts from the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Rumania and East Germany. The Com- [433] munists boasted that production has increased many fold. If the index of production in 1950 was 100, that in 1951 was 140, and 1954 was 430. In 1955, they planned to produce thirty percent more crude oil than in 1954, and capital investment allocated for the sinking of new wells was twenty-five percent more than in 1954. Latest record of drilling is 234.3 meters in one day, and products include petroleum, kerosene, lubricating oil, diesel oils, tar and paraffin wax. The total output has never been revealed, but it is known that more than five thousand workers are employed.

*668 *175 The Communists have also paid attention to the development of industrial production in Kansu in general. In 1955, twenty-one state-owned or semi-state-owned factories and mines were built or renovated, and all of them are in operation. The [399] more important ones are as follows: (1) a power plant in Lanchou, [258] which increased the supply of electric power by fifty percent; [316] (2) six oil-extracting plants in Kuting and Wuwei, which, when fully completed, will increase the production of vegetable oil in Kansu nearly two hundred percent; and (3) five small coal mines, which increased the coal production by 88.2 percent over 1954.

[316] It was reported on April 4, 1953, that one of the country's largest copper deposits was found in Kansu, the Pai-yin-ch'ang copper mine, which they planned to develop under the first Five Year Plan as one of the major industrial projects in that [382] area. There is also a report that a refinery has been built in Lanchou. But details on these developments are lacking.

*668 *175 315 316 There are comparatively few industrial activities in Chinghai. However, with the development of the Chinghai-Tibet highway, the Communists are hopeful that rich oil and coal deposits may be found in the Tsaidam Basin. Tsaidam is one of the country's major areas scheduled for oil-prospecting in 1955, and drilling has already been started there. Besides, [491] mining of anthracite coal has begun in an undisclosed location in Chinghai, which was discovered by the builders of the Chinghai-Tibet highway in August 1953. Truck loads of the coal are now going regularly to Lhasa and other points along the new highway.